

REMARKS

In response to the Non-final Office Action mailed March 28, 2011 in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

I. Status of claims

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-16 are indicated allowed. No claims have been amended and no new claims have been added.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 16-23 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file continuing/divisional applications or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the subject matter of canceled claims 16-23. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the canceled subject matter of claims 16-23.

No new matter has been added through these amendments.

II. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Burns

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0116437A1 ("Burns").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. While not agreeing with the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claims 19-22 without prejudice. Accordingly, in view of the cancellation of claims 19-22, this rejection is moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

III. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dantsker

The Examiner has rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,499B2 ("Dantsker").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. While not agreeing with the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claims 16-18 without prejudice. Accordingly, in view of the cancellation of claims 16-18, this rejection is moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

IV. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Burns in view of Chow et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Burns in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,402 to Chow et al. ("Chow").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. While not agreeing with the Examiner, Applicants have canceled 23. Accordingly, in view of the cancellation of claim 23, this rejection is moot with respect to claim 23. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

With respect to claim 24, Applicants note that claim 24 is dependent from claim 2 which is indicated allowed. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) because claim 24 is dependent from an indicated allowed claim.

V. Allowed claims 1-15.

The Examiner has stated that claims 1-15 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the allowability of claims 1-15.

As discussed above in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Burns in view of Chow, claim 24 is dependent from allowed claim 2 and therefore should also be allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also confirm the allowability of claim 24.

VI. Conclusion

In this response, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims 16-23 in order to expedite prosecution of this application. With the cancellation of these claims, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments and issue a Notice of Allowance indicating that all pending claims have been allowed.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0850, referencing docket number 201487/1190. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

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Customer No.: 50828

Respectfully submitted,

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